

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mercer Education's *SAT/COLLEGE PREP CAMP* for students entering grades 9-12 meets for five hours per day, Monday through Friday for a total of 100 hours\*\* of intensive instruction and exercises. There are two one-month sessions, and students may attend either one. (Note: This year, the verbal curriculum for the two sessions of the camp will be the same, though the math curriculum will be different each month, and students may attend the math portion in both sessions without repeating the same materials.) If spaces are available, students may attend just the SAT Reading & Writing section or just the SAT Math section (either 9:30am-noon or 12:30-3pm). Small classes not exceeding eight students allow teachers to attend more fully to each student's needs. Students are scheduled in groups of approximately the same age and of similar proficiency. Over the course of four weeks, in addition to taking a four-hour assessment test, students complete multiple (4-6) SAT tests under test-like conditions and additional exercises outside of class, after which they review, analyze, and discuss their errors and weaknesses with their instructors.

While extensive in its scope and goals, the course is paced in such a way that assignments never seem intimidating or overly time-consuming. Our instructors are experienced professionals who bring the standardized test material to life with interesting supplementary materials and proven teaching techniques that lead to quality results. The instruction focuses on developing academic skills (reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, critical thinking, word problems, algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, and some pre-calculus), preparing students not only for several standardized tests but also for the kinds of work they will be doing in school.

In addition to developing test-taking and academic skills, students have a structured opportunity to prepare for the college application process. Working alone and in groups, students learn about higher education options and important considerations to keep in mind. They will read sample application essays and write personal statements of their own, for which teachers will provide substantial critical feedback. With the guidance of their instructors, students will also learn how to write effective academic resumes. At the end of each session, parents receive a progress report and assessment as well as suggestions for additional work to prepare for the SAT.

**READING & TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES (approximately 20 hours)**

Every student receives focused instruction in the reading portion of the SAT, which includes strategies for tackling reading passages and questions as well as methodical analysis of each student's work on four to six SAT tests. Instructional materials include established texts that clearly present exercises and techniques proven to raise scores and provide the foundation for honing reading and analytic skills and for learning advanced vocabulary (approximately 75-100 words per week).

**WRITING, GRAMMAR & COLLEGE PREPARATION (approximately 30 hours)**

The SAT includes a 35-minute writing and language multiple choice section as well as a 50-minute timed essay writing section. Students receive focused instruction in the writing and language section of the SAT which includes regular in-class timed practice together with follow-up critiques, a thorough review of grammar and usage, and substantial homework exercises to reinforce concepts and practice techniques learned in class. In addition, students do research and preparation for the college application process by completing step-by-step assignments.

\* SAT is a registered trademark of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, Mercer Education's website, products or services.

\*\* The camp usually meets for 95 hours in ME's first session because of the school closing for Independence Day (7/4), but the course content and tuition rates are the same.

## MATH SECTION (50 hours)

Mercer Education's rigorous program thoroughly prepares students for the SAT. This includes problem solving techniques typical of the SAT and similar standardized tests. We teach common strategies and tools such as distinguishing between combinations and permutations to count possible outcomes, breaking down a complex problem into simpler parts, and finding ways to organize information presented in a word problem. Course work draws on sample SAT problems and a variety of engaging supplementary materials designed to provide practice with all the commonly encountered questions. In addition, students complete a comprehensive review of all essential skills, ranging from the use of graphing calculators to a review of methods of algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, and some pre-calculus, and all students receive methodical analysis of their work on approximately nine (9) SAT tests. *We recommend students have completed at least half a year of Algebra II prior to enrollment.*

## A Student's Typical Day (total 5 hours instruction per day; ½ hour lunch break)

On average, students will devote 1 hour per day to reading and test-taking strategies, 1.5 hours per day to writing, grammar and college preparation, and 2.5 hours per day to SAT math. Preparing for the verbal portion of standardized tests involves the integration of multiple language learning areas including reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar. Likewise, the math portion of the SAT touches upon multiple skills and problem types to which each group of students brings different strengths and weaknesses. Because of the overlap of skills and student diversity, the information presented above estimates the time reserved for direct instruction in the three main subject areas of the SAT. Times devoted to various verbal components of the program may vary depending on the needs of the class.

## CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ For students entering grades 9-12
- ▶ 100 hours of focused instruction
- ▶ Two 4-week sessions available
- ▶ Small classes not exceeding 8 students
- ▶ Highly experienced instructors
- ▶ Assessment and multiple (4-6) SAT tests
- ▶ Mock SAT administered under real test conditions in the final week
- ▶ Additional exercises outside of class
- ▶ Academic skills & time management skills
- ▶ Critical reading strategies
- ▶ Thorough review of grammar and usage
- ▶ Increased vocabulary (75-100 words/week)
- ▶ In-class timed writing practice
- ▶ Introduction to the college application process
- ▶ Introduction to application essays
- ▶ Essential math skills review
- ▶ Math problem-solving techniques  
(Half a year or more of Algebra II prior to camp recommended)
- ▶ Challenging supplementary materials
- ▶ Progress Report & suggestions for parents